



Envision Arlington Fiscal Resources Task Group
Meeting Minutes
7:30 PM 5/16/24
Town Hall Annex First Floor

ATTENDEES: Gordon Jamieson (Co-Chair), Brian Hasbrouck, Heather Remoff, David Garborino, Michael Cunningham Town Counsel, Pete Howard (Secretary)

1. Gordon reported that most of our work must be postponed until after Town meeting.
2. The group again reviewed Gordon's work concerning the MBTA assessment. Gordon's spread sheet, Ref 1, provides convincing evidence that Arlington's MBTA Assessment is excessive based on the MBTA Communities Act (Act). A detailed explanation follows:
Column 1: All the cities and towns served by the MBTA grouped in 1 of 5 levels of service from Rapid Transit to Adjacent Small Town as listed in the Act.
Column 2: The names of these levels of service as listed in the Act. Arlington is an Adjacent Small Community.
Column 3: The MBTA Assessment according to each community's cherry sheet. These quantities were established when the MBTA was established in the 1965 and increased annually, recently by 2.5%.
Column 4: Boston Metro.
Column 5: Regional Transit charges. Arlington does not pay this fee though many communities do.
Column 6: Population for each community as listed on the DOR web site.
Column 7: For each community compute that community's fraction of the total population in that user group and multiply by the total assessment in that user group. This provides a revised MBTA assessment such that each resident in a level of service category pays the same amount. For Arlington that share would be \$774K rather than \$3,403K.

A discussion followed of what might be the most useful organization of this data to the legislators as they approached their fellow legislators. Listing by revised assessments would show winners & losers.

3. All 3 of Arlington's State Legislators were invited. Cindy Friedman replied that she had conflicting budget meetings
6. Next meeting 6/20/24 in Town Hall Annex 1st floor conference room.